

REMARKS

Initially, applicants would like to express their appreciation to the Examiner and his supervisor for conducting a personal interview on April 4, 2007. In accordance with the interview, the present paper is being submitted.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to distinguish escrow. More specifically, claim 1 now recites "when verification of both the identity of the payer and the amount of the transaction is successful, the VPC system immediately caus[es] the specified amount to be electronically transferred from the identified account to a VPC account in real time and subsequently caus[es] transfer of the specified amount from the VPC account to a designated payee account." Support for the amendment is found, *inter alia*, at paragraphs 32, 41, and 61 of the specification.

It is requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 1.

Claim 1 has also been amended to delete the "non-biometric" limitations. Thus, claim 1 is intended to cover both biometric and non-biometric data. Previously canceled claims 4, 5, 8, and 9 (relating to biometric data), have been re-presented.

Claim 1 has been amended to correspond to the perspective of the VPC system. Thus, the identifying, receiving, and sending steps have been revised into a single new "receiving" step.

Claims 22 and 23 have been amended to correct a typographical error.

Dependent claims 2 - 10 and 12 - 23 are believed to recite further patentable subject matter of the invention and therefore are also believed allowable over the prior art. As such, allowance of the dependent claims is deemed proper for at least the same reasons noted for the independent claim, in addition to reasons related to their own

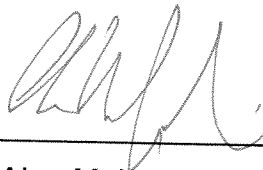
recitations. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding rejections and an indication of the allowability of all of the claims in the present application.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fee(s) or any underpayment of fee(s), or to credit any overpayments to Deposit Account **50-0337**. Please ensure that Attorney Docket No. LA-7362-101/10300075 is referred to when charging any payments or credits for this case.

Any amendments to the claims that have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this Reply, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,



By _____

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